



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEASURES IMPLEMENTED NEAR CLAYTON, IDAHO IN EFFORT TO CONTROL PROBLEM WOLVES

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service implemented control actions on private land in the East Fork of the Salmon River near Clayton, Idaho, on April 1. Two gray wolves, members of the Whitehawk Pack, were lethally controlled after depredating on a domestic sheep on March 31. Necropsies confirmed that the wolves, both yearling males, had killed the sheep.

Harassment devices have been in operation for the past two months to discourage wolves from frequenting several ranches in the area. Ranchers reported the wolves had been triggering radio-activated guard (RAG) boxes prior to the depredation incident. One wolf, B-125, was radio-collared, and wolf recovery specialists are confident that most of the other Whitehawk Pack members are also collared, which will facilitate monitoring the remaining wolves.

The Service and USDA Wildlife Services used another method of harassment, helicopter hazing, in an effort to scatter the pack and move the animals from the depredation area.

In addition to the implementation of various control measures, the Service issued lethal wolf take permits to four ranchers in the East Fork because of the Whitehawk Pack's chronic depredation pattern. Idaho Wolf Recovery Coordinator Carter Niemeyer said, "The lethal take permits will allow local ranchers to kill any single wolf on their private land over the next 45 days. This tool allows private landowners more flexibility in the control of problem wolves. We are hopeful that the implementation of all these management actions will be successful this spring in the East Fork area."

No further control actions on the Whitehawk Pack are planned unless additional depredations occur.

FWS

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System which encompasses more than 535 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 70 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resource offices and 78 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces Federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.